



Thanks for a Job Well Done

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SPIRIT

Air Force Reserve's first Associate KC-135 Unit

Mission complete in Kosovo for 18th ARS crewmembers

Staff Sgt. David Brumley
931st ARG/Public Affairs

War weary warriors of the 18th Air Refueling Squadron began returning home from their mission in support of liberating the war-torn province of Kosovo on June 21. Over 50 members were deployed in the European theater, where they refueled aircraft flying combat sorties into the conflict area.

All of the deployed members who returned in late June were stationed at Moron, Spain. The goal for the 18th ARS was to give some much-needed relief to their active duty counterparts who were stretched to the breaking point. "When we arrived they were working 10 hour shifts for every 12 hours," said Technical Sgt. Mark McIntosh 18th Air Refueling Squadron in-flight refueling specialist (commonly known as a boom operator). "We were able to provide them with relief, because tankers were really in short demand," he added.

The active duty crewmembers were under extreme pressure to perform, and endure long hours in order to complete their

missions. "They called it the eat, sleep, and fly cycle, because all you did was eat, sleep, and fly", said McIntosh.

The sorties were flown 24 hours a day. "Each flight took about 8 hours total flight time," said Lt. Colonel Ron Johnston, operations officer of the 18th ARS, "that includes 2.5 hours flying to and from the refueling tracks, and about 2 - 4 hours to refuel aircraft." The Moron deployed members flew 478 sorties, refueled 2226 aircraft, and passed over 21 million pounds of fuel, according to Johnston. "During the conflict a day off was just 12 hours so we could reset ourselves for the next shift", said McIntosh.

One first that took place during the deployment was the use of the new PACER CRAG configured aircraft. This was the first time the new configured aircraft had been involved in combat action. "We (the 931st) were the first to fly a 3 person crew in a combat mission," said Johnston. Maj. Clay Childs, aircraft commander; Maj. Randy Brink, pilot; and Technical Sgt. Jim Yokom, in-flight refueling specialist, were the history making crew who



Staff Sgt. Shannon Perham

flew the first PACER CRAG mission.

A Crisis Action Team (CAT) was established at the beginning of the deployment to provide a central command post for operations overseas in order to provide support for the deployed members. "This was the first time the 931st had ever set up a CAT before," said 1st Lt. Martha Kuder, military personnel flight commander. "We were the only unit who manned it 24 hours a day. Most units only had their operational during normal duty hours." "During the actual operation we had representatives from operations, plans, maintenance and family readiness," said Kuder. Family readiness helped by contacting families here in the states and those who were

deployed. "We were a go-between in getting information back and forth," said Kuder. "We also contacted the families once-a-week, and put together a weekly newsletter in order to keep them informed of what was going on with their loved ones," said Kuder. "That was one of the success stories, not just the CAT, but the family readiness' support", said Johnston. "When the last member comes back it will then be closed, and that member is scheduled to be Colonel Despinoy, 931st Air Refueling Group commander," Kuder said.

Editor's Note: Watch for stories on unit members deployed to Souda Bay and Incirlik in next month's edition.



Thanks for a job well done

Col. Mario Goico

931st ARG Deputy Commander

It is time to celebrate the safe return of the "Kanza" team. A few weeks ago we saw the return home, to a very emotional reunion, of our people from Moron and Souda Bay. This week we will welcome the rest of the team from Turkey. We watched the eager spouses and children give our returning "Kanza" team members a hero's welcome. We demonstrated once again the benefit of the "citizen airman" concept to our nation's defense. We can be justifiably proud that we were a part of this nation's largest call up since Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

Operation Allied Force was a high-technology campaign; a dominant and overwhelming performance by Air Force.

The tankers were the key to the Kosovo

operation. It could not have been done without air refueling. But it also could not have been accomplished without the support from home. We are proud of our deployed team, and also of their families and of all the 931st personnel that quietly and professionally provided support from home.

I want to personally thank everyone in Family Readiness and other unit members who manned the CAT 24 hours a day, seven days a week throughout our unit's activation. They provided outstanding support to the families of our deployed members.

On behalf of Col Despinoy, I want to thank everyone involved in carrying out the mission, whether deployed or at home station.

We, once again, demonstrated our "citizen-airman" patriotism. We put down the "plow", our full-time job, and answered



Staff Sgt. Barbara Davis/Spirit

the call to our reserve duty. We picked up our "guns" and left our families to answer the call from the country. We were needed and we responded as part of the total force team. Now it's time to return to our jobs. But before we do that let's have a big celebration. On Saturday of the August UTA we are going to have a big party for all of our members and their families. Again, I want to thank everyone for a job well done!

Robertson praises 'total force' at AFA symposium

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AFPN) — The commander of Air Mobility Command believes the total force is a fact of life for everyone in today's military, perhaps more so for U.S. Transportation Command and AMC.

"In every mode of transportation, at least half of our capacity comes from our commercial partners," Gen. Tony Robertson told civilian and military representatives of the Air Force Association during its recent symposium.

In airlift, for example, Robertson told the audience that on the military side of the equation, AMC keeps a majority of its air

mobility capability in the Guard and Reserve components — ready for use when needed. He also explained that half of AMC's airlift capability exists with its commercial partners in the Civil Reserve Air Fleet. He said this arrangement allows AMC to utilize all resources to ensure mission accomplishment.

"Our dependence on the total force ensures the taxpayer only pays for the additional capability when our nation needs it, during times of war or other major conflict," said Robertson. He pointed out that the CRAF saved taxpayers more than \$3 billion during Desert Storm.

Robertson started his remarks by saying he wanted to thank the men and women of AMC for all they do behind the scenes.

Throughout his presentation, Robertson continually drove home the importance of the "total force" concept. He said that just as USTRANSCOM depends on its Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard members to accomplish its total mission, AMC depends on its total force as well. AMC will continue to rely heavily on reservists, guardsmen and civilians to work with the active-duty forces, to provide global reach for America, he said. (Courtesy of AMC News Service)

Kanza Spirit

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931st Commander
Col. Dean Despinoy

Chief, Public Affairs
Capt. Dave Fruck

NCOIC, Public Affairs
Vacant

Editor
Staff Sgt. Barbara Davis

Staff Writer
Staff Sgt. David Brumley



Spirit Spotlight

Captain Christopher Potter, Pilot, 18th ARS

From: *Windham, Connecticut*
Civilian Position: *Regional Sales Manager, Raytheon Aircraft Company*

Favorite Food: *Lasagna*

Favorite Music: *Jimmy Buffett*

Favorite Movie: *Fast Times At Ridgemont High*

Hobbies: *Sailing, flying, and the Air Force Reserves*

Ideal Vacation: *Two weeks in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico*

Best Way to Relax: *Same as hobbies above*

Pet Peeve: *Waiting in line -- for anything*



Staff Sgt. David Brumley, Public Affairs

What would you do with \$1 Million: *Invest 60% in stocks, 20% in long-bonds, 20% in tax-free municipal bonds, and Keep On Working!*

Refer a Friend

There are positions available within the 931st ARG. Help your unit recruit by providing them a name of a friend or have them contact Tech. Sgt. David McCormick at 652-4350, Master Sgt. Terry Gosh at 652-3766, or one of their area recruiters listed below.



Tinker AFB, OK

Master Sgt. Victor Bradford (405) 739-2980

Technical Sgt. Rhonda Nolan (405) 734-5331

Lawton, OK

Technical Sgt. Nathan Bickle (405) 357-2784

Sheppard AFB, TX

Master Sgt. Larry Giles (817) 6763382

Midwest City, OK

Master Sgt. Linda Smith (405) 733-9403

Staff Sgt. William Thompson

Personnel News

Military Personnel Flight Hours

The core hours of operation for the MPF are as follows:

Monday – Friday 0730 – 1600

Saturday – UTA 0800 – 1600

Sunday – UTA 1000 – 1600

OUTPROCESSING HOURS

If you, or any unit member you know, needs to out process for TDY, reassignment, or retirement, please keep in mind that on UTA weekends the Military Pay section (Ms Sharon Thayer) is only open for business on Saturdays from 1300 to 1630 hours. Thinking ahead can insure you do not have to come out during the week to finish your out processing. For further information contact TSgt Anick Wallace in Relocations at X-3665.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE DD FORM 93, RECORD OF EMERGENCY DATA?

The DD Form 93 provides information on the Primary Next of Kin (PNOK), Secondary Next of Kin (SNOK), and other persons to notify in case of death, injury, or an emergency. This form also serves as the official document required by law for designating beneficiaries for death gratuity pay and unpaid pay and allowances.

See **Personnel**, page 7

UTA Schedule

July 17-18

Aug. 14-15

Sep. 18-19

Chapel Service

UTA Sundays, 0745-0815

Bldg. 850, upstairs conference room

Maj. Charles Peters, Chaplain

Everyone is Welcome!



FROM THE IG

Primary IG: LtCol Ralph Rissmiller

Bldg 850, Rm 244 652-3684/743-3684

Alternate IG: LtCol Ron Johnston

Bldg 650, Rm 146 652-3812/743-3812

Reprisal

Allegations of reprisal are one of the most common types of complaints received within IG channels.

AFI-301 defines REPRISAL as "taking or threatening to take an unfavorable personnel action or withholding or threatening to withhold a favorable personnel action against a military member for making or preparing to make a protected disclosure." Let me explain this definition. A protected disclosure is a lawful communication which you as a military member have the right to make. Examples include contacting the IG, reporting fraud, waste, or abuse, pursuing an issue up the chain of command, and writing your elected officials. No one may deny you that right.

A reprisal occurs when someone either threatens you with an unfavorable action or actually takes such action as a punishment because you elect to exercise your right to lawful communication. What do you do if you feel you are a victim of a reprisal? Contact us in the IG office. We will investigate and do our best to determine if a reprisal occurred. If the allegation of reprisal is substantiated by the facts determined in the investigation, the case is then given to the appropriate commander for disciplinary action.

If you have questions about reprisal or any other IG matter, feel free to give us a call.

931st ARG on the WWW...
w3.afrc.af.mil/units/931aw

NEWCOMERS



Staff Sgt. David Brumley/Spirit

Top photo: Senior Airman Jeremy Swilling, 931st OSF; Captain Timothy Caplinger, 18th ARS.

Bottom photo: Master Sgt. John Johnston III, 931st OSF; Senior Airman Paula Hearn, 931st AGS; Senior Airman Christopher Stearns, 931st AGS.

Personnel *continued from page 3*

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (HRDC)

The HRDC meets every Friday before the UTA at 1545 in the Southwind Conference Room. Anyone wishing to have an issue addressed to the council may forward it to the council through their unit representative. Commanders and First Sergeants are always welcome to attend.

AFRC NCO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COURSE

Group personnel have been offered space in classes at Ft. Worth Joint Reserve Base. Class dates are 14 – 22 Aug 99. Interested SSgts and TSgts should contact Group Training for more information.

GROUP WEIGH-IN

Group wide weigh-in will be on 17 July. All individuals will be weighed and measured not later than 1000 hours Saturday of the UTA.

MPF IN-HOUSE TRAINING

The MPF is closed each Sunday of the UTA from 0800 – 1000 for In-House training. Classes are held in the TNET room (217), and all administrative personnel are welcome to attend.

SENIOR NCOA PACKAGES

Members wishing to attend the SNCOA in residence are reminded that the suspense for packages to DPMT is 21 Jul. They now have to go through Tinker and 4th AF before reaching the HQ selection board. Any questions concerning requirements may be directed to DPMT.

GET THOSE WALKING SHOES OUT!!!!

Reminder: Everyone must complete complete their fitness test by the end of October. With the new guidance, we can no longer excuse someone from the test because they are TDY -- unless they are TDY for the entire year. Ask your Fitness Managers for dates and times.



Families welcome home 18th Air Refueling Squadron members

Welcome Home to all of our deployed folks! It's great to have you back. Keep in mind that it is normal to have an adjustment period after the homecoming. Family Readiness (FR) has booklets and resources to help. Volunteers needed - we are planning a Reunion and Family Day Picnic for all 931st members during the 14 -15 August UTA. We need volunteers to assist with planning, coordinating, entertaining and decorating. If you are willing to share your talents in any of these areas, please contact Lt. Martha Kuder 652-3546.



All photos by
Staff Sgt. Shannon Perham



Around the World in Ninety Days

1st Lt. Jim Fuchs

Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AFPN) — Air Mobility Command will be sending more than 400,000 employees on a 90-day trip this summer. No, this trip is not a deployment, but rather a “virtual” tour of the world that will give those “traveling” a chance to win prizes at every destination along the way.

“The ‘Around the World in Ninety Days’ promotion is our way of encouraging broader participation in family oriented base activities,” said Capt. Marc Piccolo, executive officer for the Air Mobility Command Services directorate. Game pieces will be awarded to those individuals who participate in sanctioned activities. Participation in these activities will earn the person miles, making them eligible for certain prizes.”

These prizes, more than 3,600 in all, include vacations, computers, electronic equipment and new vehicles, 43 of which will be awarded after August 31, when the promotion ends. There are instant prizes, however, that will be awarded throughout the promotion, Piccolo explained.

“The way the promotion works is fairly simple,” Piccolo said. “Because this is AMC’s ‘Year of the Family,’ the sanctioned events that will earn participants game pieces are those that focus on participation by the AMC family and foster a sense of community.”

According to Piccolo, these events range from reading a book in the Year of the Family book collection to becoming a home day-care provider.

Each time an individual participates in one of the events, game pieces are awarded, with each game piece representing 1,600 miles. The miles are tallied for each participant in an individual account.

“Once a person has earned that first game piece, he or she can set up an (Around the World in Ninety Days) account by calling a toll-free number or accessing the Web site and entering some basic information,” Piccolo said. “Once an account has been established, the person simply calls the 1-800 number and enters the number found on each game piece they receive to become eligible to win a prize.”

For example, each participant will start at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. If they earn two game pieces, they will have enough miles on the “virtual” map to “travel” to Lajes Field, Azores. By calling in the information on the back of their game pieces and updating their account, the participant is eligible to compete for the prizes offered in the Lajes Field prize package. When a participant calls to enter their game piece, they may even discover they have won a prize from one of the more than 3,500



DOD Photos by Airman First Class Gina Prescott, 92nd Communications Squadron

On a plane in Spain....

Top Photo: Major Dolores Bubier, Navigator, 18th ARS conducts pre-flight inspections on navigational equipment on a KC-135 aircraft in Moron, Spain.

Bottom Photos from left: Technical Sgt. Debra Lee, Boom Operator, 18th ARS conducts pre-flight inspection in a boom area of the KC-135; Captain Dennis Thornton, Pilot, 18th ARS prepares for sortie in support of NATO Operation Allied Force.

instant prizes being awarded.

The other destinations for the promotion include Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany; Kadena AB, Japan; Hickam AFB, Hawaii; and back to Scott. At each location, participants are eligible to compete for the prize packages offered there.

According to Piccolo, a participant who earns 12 game pieces will have enough miles (18,400) to reach all five destinations and compete for all of the prizes being offered. To win one of the vehicles, a participant must visit all five destinations.



Tanker units combine delivering force for ONW

Staff Sgt. Cindy York

Combined Task Force/Operation Northern Watch
Public Affairs

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, Turkey (AFPN) — With the combination of two reserve tanker units at Operation Northern Watch, the mottos of the units mix just as well as the people themselves.

The 336th Air Refueling Squadron from March Air Reserve Base, Calif., boasts they are the “First and the Finest,” while the 18th ARS from McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., promises they “Can Do.” The units, formed to make the 336th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, are proving their mettle as they deliver much-needed fuel during combat missions over Iraq.

The units, which were activated for up to 270 days under the Presidential Selected Reserve Call-up, arrived at Incirlik around May 13. Since then, they have flown more than 350 hours and transferred nearly 7 million pounds of fuel.

Six crews from March, including around 80 maintenance people, and three crews from McConnell were combined in order to continue the ONW tanker mission with Pacer CRAG capability. The 336th took over the Pacer CRAG role from the 107th Air Refueling Wing from Niagara Falls, N.Y.

A compass radar and global positioning system, Pacer CRAG enables the KC-135 Stratotanker to be flown with a three-man crew as opposed to the four normally needed. There is no need for a navigator, so the crew consists of only two pilots and a boom operator.

Tech. Sgt. Nicole Canada, a boom operator from March, said things are going smoothly with the operations so far. “There are benefits of having two units working together. We are able to pick and choose the best people and best procedures to see what works,” she said.

Finding the top combination of procedures and people to do their job is extremely important, considering their mission. “The fighter units are out there as the point of the spear,” said Capt. Bradley Mordan, a March pilot. “Our job is to offload gas. We’ll get it to them one way or another, no matter what it takes.” Canada said the maintenance troops are a big part of their success here.

“At home, there are two to three missions a day with a whole squadron of planes to choose from. Here, we have seven planes



U.S. Air Force photo

and all seven are in the air on fly-days.” Capt. Chris Evers, maintenance officer, said keeping the planes flying is critical. “If a plane goes down, there’s one asset not available for operations, so there is a big push to keep the aircraft flying. When even one of our planes goes down, it affects the ONW mission.”

Col. Dean Despinoy, 336th detachment commander from McConnell, attributes their success to his people. “We have a great group of professionals in our unit. There’s a great synergy within us. Of course, there are challenges to every deployment, especially as Reservists, but a commander, I’m in tune with what’s important and what’s not.” Despinoy said deploying Reservists worry about different things than the active-duty force. “Reservists have to be concerned about their relationship with their employer, especially when they are given such a short amount of time before they leave,” he said. “There are other issues to be concerned with, too, such as making sure they are getting paid in the correct working status.”

“This is what being a part of the Reserves is all about,” Despinoy said. “We’d like to accomplish the mission in a state of volunteerism, but if it’s necessary to recall because of world events, we’re happy to take part in it. We’re proud to be here and happy to serve, but as things unfold, we’ll be anxious to get back home.”

Phased Stop-Loss program terminated for reservists

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFPN) — Stop-Loss ended June 22 for Air Force reservists when the Air Force announced a phased termination of the program.

The announcement came two days after NATO Secretary General Javier Solana proclaimed that Operation Allied Force was officially over.

Stop-Loss began June 15 and was designed to keep airmen in fields critical to the allied effort from leaving the service during the air campaign over Yugoslavia. “With the end of hostilities, withdrawal of Yugoslav troops from Kosovo and the redeployment of our forces home, it is appropriate to begin releasing our people from Stop-Loss,” said Col. Lynn Pratt, chief

of the Air Force’s Military Personnel Policy Division.

“Stop-Loss is terminated for everyone not deployed in support of Kosovo. For those deployed, Stop-Loss terminates upon return to home station.” (Courtesy of AFRC News Service)



WICHITA WEEKEND

IN TOWN

Friday, July 16

From the Moon to the Stars -- 9 - 11 p.m. - A visual journey to the stars through the observatory's 16-inch telescope. Lake Afton Public Observatory, 25000 W. 39th South, Goddard. Call 978-7827 for more information.

Saturday, July 17

Tommy Castro with Tinsley Ellis -- 9 p.m. at the Cotillion. Advance tickets are \$10 at Select-A-Seat and the Cotillion. \$12 at the door. Presented by 96.3 KRZZ.

Christmas in July -- 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Arts and Crafts show at Century II Exposition Hall, 225 W. Douglas.

From the Moon to the Stars -- 9 - 11 p.m.

Sunday, July 18

Automobilia's 5th Moonlight Car Show and Street Party -- 6 p.m. - midnight, Old Town (around 1st Street).

Christmas in July -- 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Nike Wichita Open Golf Tournament -- July 18th - 25th at the Willowbend Country Club, 8011 E. Mulberry.

LIVE THEATRE

Crown Uptown Dinner Theatre

"A Grand Night For Singing" through August 15th

Call 681-1566 for dinner and showtimes.

	MAFB	Gate
Thurs. & Sun.	\$21.45	\$24.30
Fri. & Sat.	\$24.45	\$27.48

ON BASE

UTA Movies

All Movies \$1.50; All times 7 p.m.; doors open 6:30 p.m.

Friday, July 16 -- ENTRAPMENT-- (Sean Connery, Catherine Zeta Jones); An insurance investigator poses as a master thief so she can catch the legendary thief, Robert MacDougal. As their mutual attraction and distrust grows, together they plan a heist on the eve of the millennium. **Rated PG-13** (some language, sensuality, violence, drug content), 113 minutes.

Saturday, July 17 -- THE MATRIX -- (Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne); In a universe run by computers, human beings are used as batteries, for bio-electrical energy, to fuel the artificial intelligence known as the Matrix. The Matrix has created a virtual reality, to make its inhabitants think they are living happy, creative, productive lives. **Rated R** (sci-fi violence, brief language), 135 minutes.

Sunday, July 18 -- NOTTING HILL -- (Julie Roberts, Hugh Grant); Anna Scott is the world's famous movie star. William Thacker owns a travel bookstore. When Anna and William's path cross in the neighborhood of Notting Hill, romance is the last thing on their minds. **Rated PG-13** (sexual content, brief strong language), 124 minutes.

The Ticket and Tour office at McConnell Air Force Base has discount tickets on dozens of events in the Wichita Community and surrounding area, including movies, theatre, sports trips and other tours.

For information on what is available, contact the office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The numbers are (316) 652-6007 and 652-6038.